

News Release

Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge

P.O. Box 62

Chincoteague Island, VA 23336

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Lou Hinds, Refuge Manager

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Wally Makuchal, Jr. Wins Celebration Art Logo Contest

Refuge Manager Louis Hinds announced today that Wally Makuchal, Jr. of Girdle Tree, Maryland is the winner of the 15th Annual International Migratory Bird Celebration (IMBC) art logo contest. Additionally, Makuchal was the winner of the 2009-2010 Maryland State Duck Stamp Contest held recently in March. Makuchal's submission, a line drawing of a great horned owl will adorn the celebration's program flyers, T-shirts, and other celebration items

All submissions were displayed in the conference room at the Herbert H. Bateman Educational and Administrative Center on March 31 and April 1, 2009. Employees of the Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge and the 15th International Migratory Bird Celebration committee were encouraged to vote for their favorite depiction of a migratory bird that was of particular importance to the Native Americans on the Eastern Shore.

"Wally Makuchal's drawing of a great horn owl fits in well with this year's theme of "Birds in Culture" for the owl symbolizes wisdom in many Native American cultures," stated Manager Hinds.

The 15th Annual International Migratory Bird Day Celebration will be held on Saturday, May 9 from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm outside under small tents and inside the Herbert H. Bateman Educational and Administrative Center. During the day visitors can participate in a wide variety of family activities including a live animal presentation, Native American drum, soap carving, bird walks, bird banding demonstrations, photography walks, bird cookie decorating, bird feeders, face painting, bird tattoos, bird house building, and a wildlife art show featuring local wildlife artists and decoy carvers.

Chincoteague Kiwanis will be on hand hosting a "safe bike" station during the celebration. Kiwanis members will offer free safe bike inspections and give-aways such as helmets and reflectors. After their free bike check, folks will be encouraged to ride on the refuge trails and enjoy the outdoors. Refurbished bikes will be given away in a drawing. Folks will enter into the drawings by participating in a scavenger hunt and recording their wildlife sightings observed on the trails.

This year's event is sponsored by the Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge, Chincoteague Natural History Association, Assateague Island National Seashore, Chincoteague Chamber of Commerce, Chincoteague Kiwanis, Historic Main Street Merchants Association, Maryland Department of Natural Resources, The Ward Museum

and many volunteers.

For more information on the 15th Annual International Migratory Bird Celebration, please call or write the Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge, P.O. Box 62, Chincoteague, Virginia 23336, (757)336-6122.

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